

Volume 3; Issue 3

February 2010



NORTH YAKIMA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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We're on the Web!!

<http://www.nycd.scc.wa.gov>

District Programs: Are We Viable?

As the North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD) implements its many projects and programs, I'm often asked "How's your funding? Is your Staff being cut? How's the recession affecting your District?". Whether I'm asked by the Districts many governmental partners, our landowner customers or even friends and family, the answer is still the same as it was 20 years ago, "same Old, same Old". And after 20 years I still get the same confused look.

That "look" comes from not understanding how a District funds itself. You see, Districts are empowered by their volunteer Boards who clearly define natural resource needs and priorities for their communities through planning processes. With those clearly defined priorities they and staff seek funds from granting entities (governmental to private) to address those needs. The result is simple – good projects get funded and implemented and bad ones don't. Isn't this the way everything should be?

In 2010 NYCD finds itself with several high priority Projects that have been funded for implementation. Several projects deal with Salmon recovery assisting landowners with fish screening and barrier removal and a new program that will deal with removal of high fire fuel loads in our forested areas. This year will be one of our busiest yet.

I guess for the time being when I'm asked is the North Yakima Conservation District viable, I'll just have to look them in the eyes and continue to say "same Old, same Old".

Thanks,

Michael Tobin NYCD Manager

454-5736 ext 5 or mike-tobin@conserveva.net

ANNUAL LONG RANGE PLANNING MEETING MARCH 16, 2010 FROM NOON TO
3:00 PM.

PUBLIC INPUT WELCOME!!

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NYCD's Featured Project

Boyd Brown Diversion and Barrier Removal Project

Through partnership with a local landowner along Rattlesnake Creek, it was possible to improve the efficiency of his on-farm irrigation system, at the same time increase the amount of water in the stream and remove a fish passage barrier.

The project removed a gravity diversion and associated diversion channel on Rattlesnake Creek and transferred the water right to the adjacent Naches River via irrigation wells that were in surface continuity with the river.

The screen was outdated and did not meet current standards for mesh size and the fish bypass had been jammed with rocks. The diversion also had an associated seasonal rock dam that was built up every irrigation season and would dewater parts of Rattlesnake Creek in low water years, it also hindered fish passage.



Before

With the successful removal the diversion there is now an additional 1.5 cfs of water left in the creek, and the diversion dam is no longer needed, allowing for year round fish passage. The landowner also worked with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to improve his on-farm irrigation system to operate more efficiently.



After

Private landowners and anyone interested in the services offered by the YTAHP can contact Justin Bader at 509-454-5736 ext. 117 or email justin-bader@conserveva.net. Additional information and a summary of the programs accomplishments can be found on the NYCD website,

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Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP)

The Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program through the North Yakima Conservation District works with private landowners throughout Yakima County to install screens on pump diversions to prevent juvenile fish from being sucked into pumps. In 2009, the District was able to work with four individual landowners to screen their pump diversions, screening a total of 359.07 gallons per minute on Cowiche Creek.



Installing fish screen in Lower Cowiche Creek



Fish Screen being prepared for installation



Fish Screen Installed

Program Contact

Private landowners and anyone interested in the services offered by the YTAHP can contact Justin Bader at 509-454-5736 ext. 117 or email justin-bader@conservewa.net. Additional information and a summary of the programs accomplishments can be found on the NYCD website, <http://nycd.scc.wa.gov/ytahp.html>.

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Plant Material Facility

PLANT SALE!!!

The North Yakima Conservation District has two major plant sales per year.

– **SPRING SALE (March 26th 27th)**: bare-root plants are **pre-ordered** by customers on a first-come first serve basis. Orders are placed by returning an order form via fax or mail, or phoning the order. Interested individuals should contact the North Yakima Conservation District to be on our brochure mailing list which is usually mailed in February.

– **FALL SALE (September)** – potted plants are sold in a one-day, open-house, clearance manner in late September. Most advertisement is through our mailing list. Occasionally, an advertisement is made via newspaper or radio.

A combination of deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, and wildflowers are made available.

The majority of species are native to our area, although a few are non-native species which serve the primary function of windbreak.



For Current Plant Sale Order Form and Plant descriptions visit our web site
<http://nycd.scc.wa.gov>

Many conservation benefits are derived from the vegetation:

- Soil stabilization
- Shade, cover, habitat
- Wildlife food source
- Wind and energy reduction
- A source of clean oxygen
- Beauty and Aesthetics

New Highway 410 and 12 FIREWISE FUELS REDUCTION PROGRAM

NYCD, in cooperation with the Highway 410/12 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) steering committee, is finalizing plans to provide a new service to landowners in the Highway 410 and 12 corridors within Yakima County. The program is designed to reduce wildfire risks in those areas by providing information to landowners on how to reduce wildfire risk on their property and by promoting fuels reduction.

There will be two principle components to the program. The first will be providing Firewise home assessments, which will be conducted by conservation district staff and will provide landowners with information about specific actions that can be taken to reduce wildfire risk on their property. The second component will be a wood chipping crew that will be available to chip brush and limbs cleared by landowners.

The details of this program will be completed very soon. If you live in the Highway 410 or 12 areas look for more information on this program soon on our website and in the mail. A public informational meeting will be scheduled in late March or early April.

For more information contact Jeremy Lieb at (509) 454-5736 Ext. 123 or email jeremy-lieb@conservewa.net

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Conservation Commission Water Resources Update for Eastern Washington February 2010

The Conservation Commission Water Resources staff continues to work towards involving the NYCD and other districts into various grant programs offered by the federal and state governments for water conservation. The Columbia River Program (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cwp/crwmp.html>), through the Washington State Department of Ecology's Office of the Columbia River, continues to be a source of funding for water conservation projects.



Peshastin Irrigation District Pipeline project, Chelan County. Photo by Bill Eller.

Last year Ecology proposed funding up to three shovel-ready conservation or water storage projects in the Wenatchee and Spokane areas under the Columbia River Program.

A complete list of Columbia River Program projected funded to date can be found on Ecology's web site here:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cwp/cr_grants.html.



Lower Wenatchee In-stream Flow Enhancement Project. Photo by Bill Eller

The Commission is also pursuing a pilot project in cooperation with Franklin CD and Ecology to determine the feasibility of retiming water through the use of conservation practices. For more information, please see http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cwp/cr_conserv.html or contact Bill Eller at the NYCD offices at 509-385-7512. **For more information, please contact Bill Eller at beller@scc.wa.gov.**

Washington Conservation Corps

The Washington Conservation Corps is a service and training program for young adults dedicated to protecting and enhancing the natural resources of Washington State

Vegetation planting, maintenance, fencing projects, habitat restoration efforts and riparian improvements occur each year within the North Yakima Conservation District area. The Washington Conservation Corps under contract with the North Yakima Conservation District performs much of the on the ground work.

This years WCC crew has planted nearly 3,000 native trees and shrubs this fall/winter enhancing and protecting over 14 acres of riparian habitat. In addition, they have installed 500 feet of fencing, and assisted with fish monitoring at four locations.

In fall of 2009 the North Yakima Conservation District partnered with the Mid Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group to restore riparian and upland property located on Cowiche Creek. With the help of the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program sponsored Yakima Washington Conservation Corp Crew, around 1000 native riparian plants were planted on the banks of Cowiche Creek and several hundred square feet of grass seed spread in the upland area.

For more information contact Brian Schmidt at (509) 454-5736 ext. 124 or email brian-schmidt@conserve.wa.net



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NYCD 2010 District Election

The North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD) is directed by a Board of five **VOLUNTEERS**, three elected by local voters and two appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission. These supervisors represent landowners, and the general public, while identifying local conservation needs and implementing programs to protect soil, water, wildlife, and other renewable resources within North Yakima County. Supervisors attend monthly meetings, oversee disbursement of District funds and direct paid staff. To be eligible for the position, the applicant must be a registered voter within the North Yakima Conservation District boundaries (all unincorporated areas). The NYCD Board of Supervisors has one elected position expiring in 2010.

Elected Positions

Elected supervisors must be registered voters within the boundaries of the NYCD. At least two of the three elected supervisors on any conservation district Board of Supervisors must be landowners or operators of farms. To be considered a candidate for an elected position, interested persons must complete and submit a candidate information form by 4:00 P.M. on Monday February 1, 2010. There are two types of candidates, a nominated candidate or a declared write-in. Only nominated candidates will have their name pre-printed on the ballot. To become a nominated candidate, a nominating petition must also be submitted by 4:00 P.M. on Monday, February 1, 2010. The petition includes the signatures of 25 eligible voters. If an individual submits a nominating petition with 25 or more valid signatures, that individual's name would be printed on the ballot. If the nominating petition included less than 25 valid signatures, the individual may run as a declared write-in, however their name will not be printed on the ballots. Nominating petitions for the elected position expiring in 2010 are due to the NYCD office no later than 4:00 P.M. on Monday, February 1, 2010.

The 2010 NYCD Board of Supervisors Election is scheduled for Tuesday March 2, 2010. Voters may visit our polling location at 1606 Perry Street, Suite C, Yakima, WA 98902. The polling station will be open from 3 P.M. to 7 P.M.

Farmland / Rangeland Preservation

The North Yakima Conservation District has identified the preservation of farm and range lands as our top priority. There are many resource benefits to keeping these lands intact from minimizing storm water impacts to providing multiple habitat benefits as well as maintaining the economic driver of this Valley. NYCD is interested in developing programs to assist private landowners in achieving this goal and would like to hear from you. If you are a farmer or rancher and are interested in such a program or would like to share your ideas, please call Mike Tobin at (509) 454-5736 Ext.122.

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Farm Financing Available from the Farm Service Agency

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides direct and guaranteed loan assistance to farmers and ranchers at all stages in their operation. It doesn't matter if you are just starting out or an established business looking to grow, change direction, or just get back on your feet. FSA provides financial assistance that helps sustain and grow American agriculture.

FSA has loans available to assist with purchase and development of farm ground, purchase of livestock and equipment, and to provide financing for annual crop/livestock production costs.



FSA also has a rural youth loan program for kids between 10-21 who are involved with an organization like 4-H or FFA. Emergency loans to assist with recovery from losses due to a natural disaster are available when a county has been declared a disaster.

To be eligible for a FSA loan you must not be able to obtain credit from a traditional lender, have needed training and experience, operator of a family farm, and US citizen or legal resident.

If you have any questions about the loan programs available, please contact the FSA office at (509) 454-5746 ext. 2 and ask for Lisa, Scott, or Crispin.

**NORTH YAKIMA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

1606 Perry Street Suite C
Yakima, WA 98902

Phone: 509-454-5736
Fax: 509-454-5682



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